

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|

09/516,706 03/01/00 MCEWAN

J 6801-0016

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QMO2/0126

EXAMINER

JOYCE, H

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 3749     |              |

DATE MAILED: 01/26/01

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

|                              |                 |                 |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No. | Applicant(s)    |  |
|                              | 09/516,706      | MCEWAN, JOHN A. |  |
| Examiner                     | Art Unit        |                 |  |
| Harold Joyce                 | 3749            |                 |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ .

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 14-18 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4-13 is/are objected to.

8) Claims \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_ .
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

**Attachment(s)**

15)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 .

18)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_ .

19)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The Telcopy/Facsimile Transmission (paper No. 3) from the Examiner dated November 2, 2000 was not agreed to; hence, a rejection of the claims follows:

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bolton et al.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolton et al. in view of Benck et al. Bolton et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the two offset portions. Benck et al. teaches that it is known to provide a partition with two offset portions as set in Figure 4. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the partition of Bolton et al. to be composed of two offset portions, as taught by Benck et al. for design reasons.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

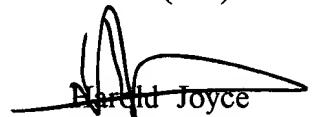
6. Claims 4-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. Claims 14-18 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold Joyce whose telephone number is (703) 308-0274. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Denise Esquivel can be reached on (703) 308-2597. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3588 for regular communications and (703) 308-7764 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Harold Joyce  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3749

HJ  
January 25, 2001